# FILED

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE P. O. Box 187000 Sacramento, CA 95818-7000

Telephone: (916) 227-0789

August 16, 2011

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By Kones

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

Го:		)	
	BRENT MEDEARIS	)	NO. H-2658 FR
		)	
		)	ORDER TO DESIST AND REFRAIN
		)	(B&P Code Section 10086)

The Commissioner (hereinafter "Commissioner") of the California Department of Real Estate (hereinafter "Department") caused an investigation to be made of the activities of BRENT MEDEARIS (hereinafter "MEDEARIS"). Based on that investigation, the Commissioner has determined that MEDEARIS has engaged in, is engaging in, or is attempting to engage in, acts or practices constituting violations of the California Business and Professions Code (hereinafter "the Code") and/or Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations (hereinafter "the Regulations"), including the business of, acting in the capacity of, and/or advertising or assuming to act as, a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of Sections 10131(d) (performing services for borrowers and/or lenders in connection with loans secured by real property) and 10131.2 (real estate broker license required to charge and collect an advance fee) of the Code. Furthermore, based on the investigation, the Commissioner hereby issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Desist and Refrain Order under the authority of Section 10086 of the Code.

Whenever acts referred to below are attributed to MEDEARIS, those acts are alleged to have been done by MEDEARIS, acting by himself, or by and/or through one or more

agents, associates, affiliates, and/or co-conspirators, and using the name "VIP Financial Services", "Property Relief", or other names or fictitious names unknown at this time.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. At no time mentioned was MEDEARIS licensed by the Department in any capacity.
- 2. During the period of time set forth below, MEDEARIS solicited borrowers and negotiated to do one or more of the following acts for another or others, for or in expectation of compensation; negotiate one or more loans for, or perform services for, borrowers and/or lenders in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by one or more liens on real property; and charge, demand or collect an advance fee for any of the services offered.
- 3. Beginning on or about December 2008, MEDEARIS solicited Randy L. (hereinafter "Randy") in order to provide loan modification and negotiation services on behalf of Randy in connection with a loan secured by real property located at 3513 Anniston Court, Modesto, California.
- 4. Between, on, or about January 1, 2009, and June 23, 2009, MEDEARIS demanded and received an advance fee totaling \$7,750 from Randy for the activities described in Paragraph 3.
- 5. Beginning on or about March 2009, MEDEARIS solicited Raymond C. (hereinafter "Raymond") in order to provide loan modification and negotiation services on behalf of Raymond in connection with a loan secured by real property located at 24333 East Highway 26, Linden, California.
- 6. Between, on, or about March 6, 2009, and May 6, 2009, MEDEARIS demanded and received an advance fee totaling \$1,750 from Raymond for the activities described in Paragraph 5.
- 7. Beginning on or about October 2008, MEDEARIS solicited Kelly P. (hereinafter "Kelly") in order to provide loan modification and negotiation services on behalf of Kelly in connection with a loan secured by real property located at 2724 Prosperity Way,

///

- 8. Between, on, or about May 8, 2009 and August 8, 2009, MEDEARIS demanded and received an advance fee totaling \$4,200 from Kelly for the activities described in Paragraph 7.
- 9. MEDEARIS solicits homeowners for mortgage loan services on his website, <a href="www.viploanz.com">www.viploanz.com</a>. As described on the website, MEDEARIS makes the following services and general claims:
  - "We treat all our clients like they are VIP's. Let us take care of all your home financing needs."
  - "We have a wide range of financing products to serve you. We have Conventional, FHA, USDA, CALHFA, VA, Hard Money Loans, Commercials, etc.""
  - "Are you thinking about buying? Let us prequalify you!"

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10. Based on the findings of fact contained in paragraphs 1 through 9, MEDEARIS, solicited one or more borrowers to perform services for those borrowers and/or those borrowers' lenders in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by one or more liens on real property located within the State of California, and charged, demanded or collected advance fees for the services to be provided, which acts require a real estate broker license under Sections 10131(d) (real estate license required for enumerated acts) and 10131.2 (real estate broker license required to charge or collect an advance fee) of the Code, in violation of Section 10130 of the Code.
- 11. MEDEARIS used a form of advance fee agreement which had not been provided to the Department for its prior review and consideration, in violation of Section 10085 of the Code (prior submission of advance fee materials required) and Section 2970 (details for prior submission of advance fee materials) of the Regulations.

### **DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated herein,
MEDEARIS, whether doing business under your own name, or any other name or fictitious
name, ARE HEREBY ORDERED to:

- 1. Immediately desist and refrain from performing any acts within the State of California for which a real estate broker license is required. In particular, you are ordered to desist and refrain from soliciting borrowers and/or performing services for borrowers or lenders in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by one or more liens on real property, unless and until you obtain a real estate broker license issued by the Department.
- 2. Immediately desist and refrain from charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, for any of the services you offer to others, unless and until you demonstrate and provide evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner that you are properly licensed by the Department as a real estate broker, and that MEDEARIS:
- (A) Has an advance fee agreement which has been submitted to the Department and which is in compliance with Sections 2970 and 2972 of the Regulations;
- (B) Has placed all previously collected advance fees into a trust account for that purpose and are in compliance with Section 10146 of the Code;
- (C) Has provided an accounting to trust fund owner-beneficiaries pursuant to Section 2972 of the Regulations; and
- (D) Is in compliance with California law, as amended effective as of October 11, 2009, with respect to loan modification and/or forbearance services. Under the amended law, you can only collect advance fees for loan modification or other mortgage loan forbearance services related to commercial loans and loans for residential properties containing five or more dwelling units.

26 ///

27 | ///

3. Immediately desist and refrain from demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, in any form, and under any conditions, with respect to the performance of loan modification or any other form of mortgage loan forbearance services in connection with loans on residential property containing four or fewer dwelling units.

DATED: August 8, 2011

BARBARA J. BIGBY Acting Real Estate Commissioner

Willia F. Moran

# By WILLIAM E. MORAN Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement

Notice: Business and Professions Code Section 10139 provides that "Any person acting as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson without a license or who advertises using words indicating that he or she is a real estate broker without being so licensed shall be guilty of a public offense punishable by a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed six months, or by both fine and imprisonment; or if a corporation, be punished by a fine not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)."

24

25

26 27